



## South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



# WESSINGTON SPRINGS LOSES POST HOME

On June 18th when a tornado ripped through the community of Wessington Springs—lives were changed, homes and businesses were destroyed.

One of the businesses destroyed was the American Legion Post 14 home.

During the State Convention, Legionnaires passed the hat and collected funds to assist Post 14.

Anyone wishing to donate to Wessington Springs Post 14 can send their donations to Dennis Brenden, South Dakota American Legion State Headquarters, PO box 57, Watertown, SD 57201.

Past Department Commander Norman Tapken also lost his home in this tornado.

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Heroes Among Us—showcasing 125 South Dakota veterans.



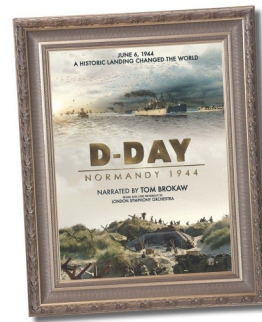
## FREE ADMISSION FOR VETERANS TO THE SHOWING OF D-DAY NORMANDY EXTENDED

Wells Fargo was very pleased with the turnout for the June 6-7 showings of D-Day Normandy—550 patrons viewed the film of which 300 were veterans receiving the free admission.

As such, they have extended free admission for veterans and military personnel for the July 4th weekend as well!

For show times visit: [https://www.washingtonpavilion.org/Online/default.asp?doWork::WScontent::loadArticle=Load&BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::article\\_id=427B14BA-71E4-4106-8300-3EB65D-FAA981&sessionlanguage=&SessionSecurity::linkName=](https://www.washingtonpavilion.org/Online/default.asp?doWork::WScontent::loadArticle=Load&BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::article_id=427B14BA-71E4-4106-8300-3EB65D-FAA981&sessionlanguage=&SessionSecurity::linkName=)

**NOW SHOWING**  
AT YOUR WELLS FARGO CINEDOME THROUGH DECEMBER 2014



**D-DAY**  
NORMANDY 1944

TOM BROKAW, Narrator  
"What I was drawn to in this project is that it tells the story of D-Day in a new way that gives such clarity to one of the most important events in the history of mankind. I thought this was going to be another traditional documentary featuring grainy black and white footage, but as soon as I saw the first minutes of the film on the giant screen, I found it irresistible."

For discounted group pricing or to schedule a special event, please contact Group Services at (605) 367-7297 ext. 2351 or [groupservice@washingtonpavilion.org](mailto:groupservice@washingtonpavilion.org)

IN HONOR OF THIS YEAR'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY  
July 4, 5 & 6, 2014  
Military/Veterans will receive FREE admission to the film  
complements of our sponsor Wells Fargo



FOR SHOWTIMES VISIT [WWW.WASHINGTONPAVILION.ORG](http://WWW.WASHINGTONPAVILION.ORG)  
or visit our box office at 301 S. Main Ave., Sioux Falls, SD | (605) 367-6000

## VIETNAM VETERANS HONORED IN ABERDEEN

Family, friends and fellow veterans gathered at the Brown County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Aberdeen's Anderson Park this week to honor 14 Aberdeen American soldiers who died during the Vietnam War. Brown County VSO Aaron Walberg and Assistant CVSO Kathy Schlecht attended the ceremony.

The Aberdeen Exchange Club purchased 14 flags to fly in their honor during holidays. It is their hope that the flags will serve as a reminder to our youth as to the cost of freedom and to honour our heroes.

The 14 flags will fly during holidays throughout the year in memory of:

Leonard E. Anderson - Navy, 10/27/1965  
Ronald R. Schnaidt - Air Force, 04/05/1967  
Lanny R. Krage - Marine Corps, 04/21/1967  
Joel C. Kervin - Army, 05/03/1967  
Charles J. Milbrandt - Army, 05/13/1967  
Bernhardt W. Miller - Army, 11/10/1967  
Vern J. Fried - Marine Corps 02/07/1968  
Richard F. Rennolet - Army 04/14/1968  
William E. Pasch - Army, 05/11/1968  
Dennis R. Volk - Army, 06/05/1968  
Donald D. Korb - Army, 06/21/1968  
Edgar D. Matthews - Army, 06/03/1970  
Donald D. Layton - Army, 08/04/1970  
Lonnie L. Stern - Army, 01/03/1971





## RAV EVENTS MOVE FORWARD, RAIN OR SHINE

Rain or shine, nor South Dakota winds impact the RAV open houses.

County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers hosted 19 open houses during the month of June. This brings the total to 62 open houses since March 1st.

Recently the Department purchased tent/canopies to utilize at outdoor events.



We appreciate all the work that the County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers have done in hosting these events as well as conducting the phone campaign. Working together we will make our goal of reaching South Dakota's veterans.

Currently, there are 18 open houses scheduled for July.



## NO WAITING LIST AT STATE VETERANS HOME

Currently, the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home has openings for single male and single female veterans.

There is a short waiting list for married couples and nursing care. Veterans and spouses should apply and tour anyway to prevent any delays when openings occur.

As always, we encourage people to call Ralph Sowder with questions or to schedule a tour to see the facilities and to see first-hand the great life-style afforded at our State Veterans Home.







# 727TH DAY 10TH ANNUAL CHARITY POKER RUN



## August 30, 2014

National Guard Armory, 300 5<sup>th</sup> St. S., Brookings, SD

## \$15 Registration

(\$25 per couple)

Registration starts at 10:00 AM

Departs @ High Noon with parade  
down Brookings Main Avenue

## \$500 Best Hand

and many other great prizes

## Rain or Shine

Any type of vehicle welcome!

\*All proceeds go to the DAV Hospital Transportation Fund  
Questions? Contact CSM (Retired) Robert Foster @ 605-873-2566  
or SFC Eric Kinslow @ 605-415-1759

[www.facebook.com/727DAVPokerRun](http://www.facebook.com/727DAVPokerRun)

Sponsored by:

 <b>Brookings Veterans of Foreign Wars</b> George Dokken Post #2118 620 Main Avenue Brookings, SD Proudly supporting the 727 <sup>th</sup> and DAV!	 <b>ALLEGRA</b> DESIGN • PRINT • MAIL 301 Main Avenue Brookings, SD 57008 www.allegradesign.com 605.887.5170 605.796.0025 605.887.6472	 <b>HAWLEY</b> INSURANCE SERVICES 100 Main Ave., Brookings 692-6223 www.hawleyinsurance.com	 <b>VFW</b> Ron Westby Post #2638 256-6771 510 S. Washington Ave., Madison, SD 57042 <i>We're only a chapter away.</i>
 <b>COUNTRY</b> <b>Corner</b> KEN & TERRY KERN (605) 873-2199 1000 1 <sup>st</sup> St. S. & BRUCE ROAD BROOKINGS, SD 57008	<b>DAV Brookings Chapter 22</b> Information: Don Johnson at 605-882-3528 - Don at 605-882-4733 <b>DAVA Brookings Unit 22</b> BUILDING BETTER LIVES FOR DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE BROOKINGS AREA FOR 26 YEARS Transportation Network: Provides rides to and from the Sioux Falls Regional Hospital at no cost to the veteran. Voluntary Service Program: Facilitates volunteers at VA hospitals, clinics and nursing home through the VA Voluntary Service Program.	 <b>RAY'S</b> <b>COOKER</b> 401 Main Ave. • Brookings, SD 57005	 <b>NorthWestern</b> <b>Energy</b> Delivering a Bright Future www.northwesternenergy.com   800-265-8977
 <b>Bozieds</b> <b>Brookings SD</b> <b>Thank You Vets!</b>	 <b>Ameriprise</b> <b>Financial</b> Lee Howard Financial Advisor Legacy Financial Partners A financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. 309 4th Street • Brookings, SD 57008-0208 Tel: 605.882.5501 x204 • Toll Free: 888.365.5501 lee.howard@ameriprise.com • ameripriseadvisors.com/lee.howard	 <b>M</b> <b>MOOTSPORTS</b> 401 Main Ave. • Brookings, SD 57005 605.873.2434 1000 1 <sup>st</sup> St. S. & BRUCE ROAD BROOKINGS, SD 57008	<b>Thompson Farm Air LLC</b> Scott and Deanne Thompson, Owners P.O. Box 838 Brookings, SD 57005 605.873.5180 • Office 605.873.5133 • Fax 605.873.5185 • Scott Cell
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 <b>Midwest Glass</b> <b>ALL Your Glass Needs</b> <b>under one roof</b> Home Windows & Doors Commercial Glass Auto Glass Custom Picture Framing 1309 Main Ave. S. Brookings, SD 605-883-7281 Leland Estrella and 2100 1 <sup>st</sup> Street	 <b>Brookings</b> <b>Auto Mall</b> <b>BrookingsAutoMall.com</b>	 <b>CUBBY'S</b> <b>SPORTS</b> <b>BAR &amp; GRILL</b> Downtown Brookings, SD 605.696.7978 www.cubbysportsbarandgrill.com	 <b>Dakotaland</b> <b>FEDERAL CREDIT UNION</b> 605-692-5922 www.dakotalandfcu.com

## HEROES AMONG US

Clarence (Cactus) Guenther was born January 4, 1923. At the time of World War II he was farming south of Armour, South Dakota. His brothers were all in the service so he took it upon himself to volunteer. He was inducted into the Army on December 21, 1943 and, entered active duty. He was honorably discharged on December 5, 1945. While serving his country he served as a combat infantryman.

Upon arriving in Germany he was assigned to Company C, 120th Regiment of the 30th Division. After being in country a short time, he and his squad were brought into a briefing and told there were about 8,000 Germans out there, but not to be too concerned, as they had them surrounded.

Orders were given for them to move forward to a small hill and set up surveillance just north of their present position. When they arrived they soon realized the Germans had them surrounded. A small schoolhouse was spotted with the door ajar. They dashed inside to hide, hoping the Germans hadn't spotted them, but they had and the soldiers were ordered to come out. Cactus said, "Suddenly we could all speak German as there was no doubt as to what was said!!!"

After being taken prisoner, they were marched to a small billet which would be home for the next 11 months. Their shoes and pants were taken from away from them, to be returned



Clarence and his wife Jean

just an hour a day when they were let out to use the latrine. Cactus said "their daily ration was a small loaf of hard bread and a raw potato per man. The diet never changed. However Clarence said, "they didn't treat us bad, they just starved us, making us too weak to do anything."

"One day we were peeking out the window and saw the Germans take a group to the shower building and they turned the gas on them and they all perished and were hauled away," said Clarence. "Two days later our group was marched over to the shower building and ordered inside. We were all scared and figured this was it. But we showered and were returned to the holding building."

After 11 months of captivity we figured out that Americans were in a village two miles away. "One evening when we were let out to go to the latrine we all ran for the village, said Clarence. It was an escape, but I don't think the Germans cared."

Clarence was discharged out of Camp Roberts in California and returned back to Armour where he spent the rest of his life. On October 17, 1948, he married his wife Jean and they've been married 65 years. Clarence remembers that after about two years of being married, he received a letter from the Army stating that he was overpaid eight dollars on his discharge. This was when my wife found out I had been a POW. My wife and I scraped up the money and sent it in.

Clarence and his wife are retired and living on their own. They both plan to be buried in the Black Hills National Cemetery. "But for now," Clarence said, "I have no worries except for when my next tee time is!!!" "Love that golf."

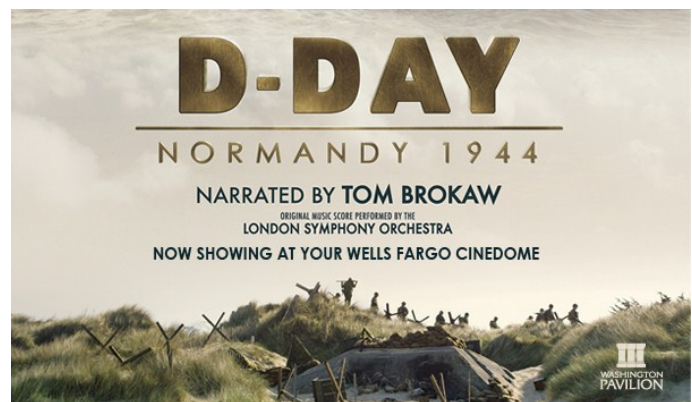
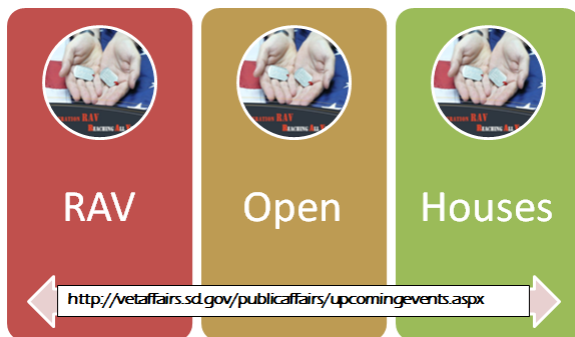
Thank you Clarence for your service to this great country!!!!!!



# Upcoming Events

## 2014

Jul. 7—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am  
 Jul. 9—Brass Choir from the 147th Army Band will perform at SFVAHCS—CLC3  
 Jul. 9—Patriotic Concert at the Veterans Memorial Park -147th Army Band will perform—7:00 pm  
 Jul. 16—SD Veterans Council Meeting—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am  
 Aug. 6—DOL Veterans/Guardsmen/Reservists/Spouses Job Fair—Augustana College Elmen Center—10:00 am—2:00 pm  
 Aug. 20—Annual SFVAHCS Show and Shine  
 Aug. 22—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Sioux City, IA  
 Aug. 25-29—NACVSO Training Ramkota Hotel—Pierre  
 Aug. 30— 727th DAV 10th Annual Charity Poker Run—Brookings—10:00 am  
 Sept. 5—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Watertown  
 Sept. 11—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Wagner  
 Sept. 19—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Sioux Falls  
 Oct. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am



Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer  
 South Dakota Department of the Military <http://mva.sd.gov>  
 South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>  
 Soldiers and Sailors Building  
 425 E Capitol Avenue  
 Pierre, SD 57501  
 Phone: 605-773-8242  
 E-mail address: [audry.ricketts@state.sd.us](mailto:audry.ricketts@state.sd.us)

